



USAID | TAJIKISTAN

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SUCCESS STORY

Gas Stoves Will Keep Families Warm

USAID provides emergency assistance to the poorest families across Tajikistan.



Saodat Sharipova and her six children know they will be better prepared for next winter.
Photo: Mercy Corps

"I am happy to know that we are better prepared for the upcoming winter with the gas balloon and stove donated for my family. It is a big support for us."

- Saodat Sharipova, Khujand City, Sougd Oblast

Severe colds and the country-wide energy crisis during the winter of 2007-08 caused hardship for the people of Tajikistan. It was especially difficult for the urban residents who rely on the centralized supply of electricity and gas to cook and heat their homes. Towns in the remote Sougd Oblast and the mountain-surrounded Rasht Valley were among the most badly affected.

Many of their residents struggled to keep their homes warm and prepare even one meal a day.

To alleviate the situation, USAID and Mercy Corps brought humanitarian assistance to these towns. Together with the city administrations, they identified the most vulnerable groups of population and distributed to them gas stoves and gas tanks, coal for wood stoves, and wool blankets. The supplies were delivered to 21 hospitals, orphanages, nursing centers, homeless shelters, and shelters for difficult teenagers in towns across the Sougd Oblast and the Rasht Valley. In addition, 336 extremely vulnerable households in Khujand City and the Rasht Valley towns of Navobod and Garm received assistance.

One of the people who received such support was unemployed mother of six Saodat Sharipova. Her husband had left to Russian in search for employment two years ago, and since then they have not heard from him. "These days, my family does not live but barely survives," says Saodat, who's apartment had no heating or electricity for months. She found it extremely difficult to keep her children warm and fed. In fear that they might freeze to death at night, the family wore all their warm clothes and even coats when they went to sleep. "I knew that people used gas balloons and stoves to keep homes warm and prepare food, but could not afford to buy such items," says Saodat, watching her children enjoy the spring warmth. "Today I am happy and my children are glad to know that we are better prepared for the upcoming winter with the gas balloon and stove donated for my family. It is a big support for us."

The local governments across the two oblasts were very grateful for the humanitarian aid provided by USAID and Mercy Corps to their residents. According to Chief of the Khujand City Social Protection Department Ms. Rustamova, "there were 7,000 poor families, disabled, and old people without care registered in Khujand in 2007. All of them needed support, and we have selected the most vulnerable among them to receive the assistance."